

18 January 1973

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Comments on *Soviet Aerospace* Article on
the Development of a Foxbat Successor

1. An article in the 15 January issue of *Soviet Aerospace* reports that the Soviets have developed a successor to the Foxbat fighter aircraft. There is no intelligence information supporting this contention. In addition, the article contains many inaccuracies and is generally misleading.

2. The Foxbat is a twin engine, all-weather interceptor designed by the A. I. Mikoyan design team. The Soviets have designated the Foxbat as the MIG-25--not the MIG-23 as stated in *Soviet Aerospace*. In combat operations the Foxbat is capable of speeds of about Mach 3 and altitudes of about 80,000 feet. The Foxbat has been produced in interceptor and reconnaissance models, and possibly in an attack version. The interceptor carries four air-to-air missiles, but the aircraft is not equipped with a down-looking radar as the article asserts.

3. The article erroneously states that the Foxbat's major limitations are its short range and high fuel consumption. Armed with four air-to-air missiles and an external fuel tank, the Foxbat has a supersonic combat radius of about 600 miles and subsonic combat radius of some 1,100 miles. Both are greater than the combat radius of any Soviet fighter other than the TU-128 Fiddler.

4. The E-266 was one of the prototypes for the Foxbat, rather than an advanced version of the fighter as this article states. The E-266 set international speed and altitude records in 1965.

5. There is no intelligence information suggesting that a new MIG aircraft with "greater range, maneuverability, operational diversity, and more advanced weapons systems" than the Foxbat has been developed in the USSR. Only two new fighter aircraft--neither designed by Mikoyan--are being actively tested by the Soviets. One is a fighter-bomber designed by Sukhoy that is similar to the US F-111. The other is a Yakovlev-designed vertical take-off and landing aircraft which is probably intended for use on a new Soviet aircraft carrier which is under construction. Neither fighter could be considered a successor to the Foxbat.